



## Eau Claire County 2018 Green Tier Legacy Community Annual Report

for Eau Claire County's participation in the Sustainability Component of the Green Tier Legacy  
Communities Charter

Last Revision April 3, 2019

Summary of sustainable initiatives and activities undertaken in the County in 2018. Note that many of the long-term initiatives identified in the 2016 and 2017 Annual Reports are ongoing but are not reflected in this report as it is primarily focused on new initiatives and activities:

### 🌿 **LAND USE**

- Assisting town of Seymour to complete 10-year comprehensive plan updates, which include policies to promote efficient land use and sustainability
- Continuing work on comprehensive amendment to the zoning ordinance which will modernize the code and integrate best practices for sustainable development including
- Working with the City of Eau Claire in the development of their Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP)

### 🌿 **HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- Commencing 10-year update of Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan, which will include a focus on public health and sustainability
- Working with developers to design cluster and conservation subdivision designs, which conserve environmentally sensitive lands, preserve habitat, and provide community amenities such as trails and interconnected open space areas for recreation

### 🌿 **TRANSPORTATION**

- In conjunction with Dunn County and Chippewa County, worked with West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to develop a regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Plan to plan for a connected multi-modal transportation network in the community

### 🌿 **WATER**

- Leveraged the Eau Claire River Watershed 9-Key element plan to be awarded unique and innovative DNR grants which will allow both counties to protect the Eau Claire River. The grant programs will foster the efforts of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition, which is a partnership of the DNR, UW-Ext, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the Land Conservation offices in Eau Claire, Clark and Taylor Counties, Lake Associations and Districts for Lake Altoona, Lake Eau Claire, and Mead Lake, and area residents. The Coalition efforts have also resulted in the following successes:
  - Two Soil Health field days, one each hosted by both Eau Claire and Clark Counties, for local farmers and agronomist to learn of soil health practices
  - Healthy Lakes presentation which saw over 60 participants from Lake Altoona, Lake Eau Claire, and Lake Wissota gather at the Beaver Creek Reserve to learn of ways lake residents can help protect our waterbodies

- Completion of river bank erosion and lake bathymetric surveys to monitor erosion and sedimentation
- Installation of river gauge equipment which will also assist in monitoring sedimentation as well as river flow data
- The State of the Groundwater in Eau Claire County -2018 report was completed by the Groundwater Advisory Committee and staff. The report includes background information, trends potentially influencing groundwater, local programs and highlights priority recommendations for continued groundwater protection.
- Eau Claire County's Stormwater education efforts continue with our participation in Rain to Rivers (R2R) of Western Wisconsin, which also saw the R2R organization fulfill its dream of becoming an independent organization following incorporation in 2018

## 🌿 ENVIRONMENT

- The Eau Claire County Land Stewardship Subcommittee of the LCC partnered with Landmark Conservancy (formerly West Wisconsin Land Trust) and other private organizations on the purchase of the former Kiwanis property, which was then donated to the Town of Union to annex onto their existing Youth Forest.
- Creation of the Ag Ordinance Review Special Committee to begin the review of existing Animal Waste Storage Ordinance and explore options for additional ordinances in response to the Large-Scale Livestock Facilities Moratorium.
- Installation of the first pasture pump system which has limited livestock access to the Dells Millpond located north of Augusta.
- The Eau Claire County Land Conservation Division held its 36<sup>th</sup> annual tree and shrub sale, offering 20 species of coniferous and hardwood trees, and several types of native shrubs. To date, over a million trees have been sold.
- The Land Conservation Division has helped landowners enroll over 1000 acres of land in the CREP program, which helps farms meet their conservation goals, particularly those who farm or graze animals along rivers and streams

## 🌿 ENERGY

- **Energy Efficiency:**
  - Retrofit Juvenile Detention Center Gym Lighting from metal halide to LED
  - Replaced 100 fluorescent 2'x2' fixtures with LED fixtures in Courthouse
  - Work with Focus on Energy to maximize investment dollars on energy reduction projects
- **Solar**
  - Purchased additional subscription of XCEL Energy Solar Connect Capacity for the Courthouse Building bringing the total solar capacity from XCEL and Eau Claire Energy Coop to 129kW

## 🌿 WASTE

- **Holiday Light Recycling:** Collected 1,620 pounds of holiday lights for recycling
- **Household Hazardous Waste:** Held 3 Clean Sweep hazardous household waste collection events in 2018; collected 72,816 pounds (approximately 36.4 tons) of hazardous waste total.

- **Waste Medication Disposal:** Collected and properly disposed of 3,321 pounds (1.66 tons) of waste medication through the Waste Medication Collection Program in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies.
- **Education & Outreach:**
  - Developed a magnet depicting best recycling practices and distributed to all incoming UWEC dorm residents as well as other groups and public
  - Eau Claire County Solid Waste hosted informational tables at several events and in local elementary schools, including participation in Earth Day activities to promote recycling and sustainability measures